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Docket No.: LUD 5539.1 CIP  
(PATENT)

#19/82  
11-29-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Kohei Miyazono

Application No.: 09/267,963

Group Art Unit: 1647

Filed: March 12, 1999

Examiner: D. Romeo

For: PROTEINS HAVING SERINE/THREONINE  
KINASE DOMAINS, CORRESPONDING  
NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES, AND THEIR  
USE

LETTER

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

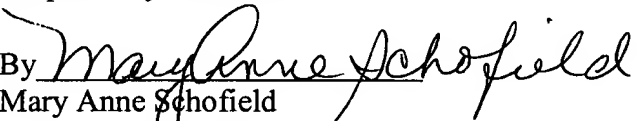
Applicants wish to thank Examiners Kunz and Romeo for discussing the September 10, 2001 Office Action as well as the previous office actions in this application during the November 16, 2001 teleconference with applicants' representatives, Norman D. Hanson and Mary Anne Schofield.

After discussing the claims and the three restriction requirements an agreement was reached that the Office Action dated September 10, 2001 would be vacated. Examiner Kunz stated that the Office Action dated May 21, 2001 opened the door for applicants to elect any of the groups recited therein.

In the interest of expediting prosecution, the Examiners offered applicants the options of either (1) pursuing the claims of Group III (without claim 28) from the May 21, 2001 Office Action or (2) submitting new claims relating to a "Method of screening for agents that inhibit binding of TGF- $\beta$  to ALK-1", which would then be examined. It was agreed that the options would be considered and applicants would contact the Examiner with the decision and provide a draft set of claims, if necessary, relating to a screening method.

Dated: November 26, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Mary Anne Schofield

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